

**Consideration of the dedication of the Mossy Point Nature Preserve, Parke County**

The proposed Nature Preserve is a 93.38-acre property located 2 miles west of Annapolis, Parke County. Mossy Point Nature Preserve, along cool, clear Sugar Creek, is characterized by high, dramatic ridges intersected by deep ravines carved out by water rushing down to the creek. The high, dry ridges support high quality stands of white oak and shagbark hickory, while the rocky points extending down to Sugar Creek, feature a riparian microclimate wet and cool enough to support one of the southernmost populations of relict eastern hemlock. Beneath the hemlocks are such uncommon plants as witch hazel, partridgeberry, and ginseng.

Mossy Point Nature Preserve is also being considered as an addition to the Audubon Society's Important Bird Areas list. The Sugar Creek Valley is a breeding ground for critical populations of wood thrush, cerulean warbler, worm-eating warbler, Louisiana waterthrush, and the Kentucky Warbler. During the winter months, massive bald eagle roosts can be seen in this stretch of Sugar Creek.

The proposed nature preserve is located within the major land conservation initiative for the Wabash River and Sugar Creek announced by Governor Daniels, and is adjacent to conservation lands owned by Wabash College and DNR Division of Forestry. Funds from the Indiana Heritage Trust were utilized in its acquisition.

This tract is owned and managed by the Central Indiana Land Trust (CILTI).

The Division of Nature Preserves recommends dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

Attached is Nature Preserves exhibit A.

Nature Preserves Exhibit A  
Mossy Point Nature Preserve  
County: Parke

USGS Quad: Montezuma

Size: 183 Acres

Ownership: Central Indiana Land Trust

